

DOCK SIDE

Remember to Wipe-Off Your Shoes

by Dale Ulbrich

We all learned at a very young age that it was necessary to wipe-off your shoes when coming into the house. The consequences of not completing this simple task were dirty floors and angry parents. Cleaning off your boat before entering and when leaving the lake is a similarly important habit. It takes very little time but helps to protect the lake from the introduction of new invasive species, or from transferring invasive species from Balsam Lake to other water bodies.

This spring, new watercraft cleaning stations were installed at each of Balsam Lake's seven access points. These cleaning stations are like a "welcome mat" to make it easier to perform this important task. They are equipped with long-handled tools to help reach under a boat or trailer to remove fragments of weeds that can multiply if introduced to a new water body. The stations at Town Beach and Highway 46 are also equipped with a wet vac and compressed air to help remove debris and any water remaining in livewells, bait buckets, and bilge tanks. This remaining water is at risk for containing microscopic animals, like zebra mussels, that can easily be transferred to other waterbodies. There are lights to help with evening use and instructions for use are printed on the units.

Additionally, Lake-WiFi is available at the cleaning stations with videos and detailed instructions for use. The wifi also has information about fishing on the lake and identification of invasive species.

In 2021, Polk County initiated a new ordinance that makes it a requirement to use decontamination tools if available at a public boat launch when entering or leaving a lake. This information is also posted on the cleaning stations. Fines of up to \$2,000 can be assessed for those who do not use a station and are suspected of potentially carrying invasives away from a launch site—further encouragement to take advantage of these new tools. See page 8: *It's up to you to stop aquatic hitchhikers...* for more detailed information.

The cleaning stations are sponsored by BLPRD with support from each local community that manages the boat landing. Special thanks to: The Village of Balsam Lake, the Towns of Balsam Lake, Georgetown, and Milltown, and Jeff Reed from Sunnyside Marina for their support.

Funding was made available through seven grants from Wisconsin DNR, which is very interested in preventing the spread of invasive species and maintaining water quality in Balsam Lake. The DNR will get yearly data reports from the cleaning station tool sensors that is automatically collected.

To learn more about invasive species impacts, identification, and how invasive species spread, see *You Can Help Keep Balsam Lake Clean* on pages 6 and 7 of this issue of the *Dock Side*. Learn what invasive species are present today in Balsam Lake in addition to those we are trying to prevent.

A provided QR Code will allow you to be additional eyes helping to monitor invasives in Balsam Lake. If you see an invasive species, you can simply take a photograph of the invasive with a smart phone and then photograph the QR Code to link to invasive species reporting on the BLPRD website. These reports will be communicated to the Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept. and the DNR for confirmation and further action as necessary.

Thanks for doing your part in protecting Balsam Lake for the future. ●



Cleaning stations at Balsam Lake access points: Town Beach and Hwy. 46; East Balsam, Little Balsam and Sunnyside Marina; Idlewild and Forest Circle.

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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Summer 2023

Great to be back in Balsam Lake after a long winter! Following is a snapshot of the district's recent activities.

East Balsam Water Quality / Alum – After a successful application of alum last summer, we are ramping up for the 2024 application. The phosphorus, chlorophyll, algae, and water clarity all further improved with our 2022 application. The 2024 Application will be the third of four planned applications.

APM Plan / Harvesting / Herbicide – Commissioner Weix has his harvesting team well positioned for the 2023 season. The long winter with generous snow cover and late spring may provide benefits. Curly-leaf pondweed and native aquatic plant growth appear to be less prevalent than in prior years as of this writing. More information is provided below.

Water Safety Patrol – We've added a deputy to our water patrol team. The team will continue to focus on boating safety and law enforcement. With the addition of the no wake zone by the marina and initiatives to positively influence large wakes adjacent to boaters, swimmers, and shoreline we anticipate it will be an active season for our patrol.

Large Wave Boats – A District board subcommittee led by Commissioner Schneider developed a plan to influence operations of large wave boats to improve safety, reduce shoreline erosion and property destruction. The Balsam Lake Surf Club approached the District to collaborate on educating our members and the public on how to safely use large wave boats. This is an "all hands on deck" effort as our water safety patrol, Clean Boat Clean Waters monitors, Sunnyside Marina and the surf club will distribute information on safe operation of large wave boats.

Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) – The CBCW team has been monitoring the lake launches since mid-May. This year, it has the added responsibility of educating and monitoring the use of our new cleaning stations. We are working through the implementation of the cleaning stations, and early results look favorable.

Finance – Planning for the 2024 East Balsam alum application is underway and the District received a \$200,000 DNR grant award for that application. The 2024 budget will be presented at the annual meeting, July 15th 8:30 am, at Unity Performing Arts Center. An \$80,000 excess assessment of 2023 taxes will be offsetting 2024 operating expenses.

Zebra Mussels – Zebra mussel monitoring on our lake continues in 2023. The DNR, Polk County and the district will monitor the progression of the zebra mussel population. Unfortunately, the options to eradicate them are very limited. Please keep your eyes out for the mussels and report findings to the

District and/or Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept., 715-485-8699 or LWRD@polkcountywi.gov.

Lake Manager – The complexity of operating the Lake District continues to increase. AIS monitoring, reporting, harvesting, water safety, finances and operating a government body has grown to a point where lake manager would be prudent. The board is analyzing this option and more information is to come.

THANK YOU for your participation and support. Enjoy the summer season. ● — Tom Kelly



Last winter's heavy snowfall may have slowed the growth of Curly-leaf pondweed under the ice.

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Commissioners

Tom Kelly, Chairman
1849 Orchard Hill
Mendota Heights MN 55118
612-508-0879
Email: tkelly56@comcast.net
Term Expires 2025

Dale Ulbrich
1342 185th Avenue
Balsam Lake, WI
612-819-8361
Email: dalerulbrich@yahoo.com
Term Expires 2024

Bill Mork, Vice Chairman
680 Alvarado
Plymouth, MN 55447
612-599-8678
Email: bmork1@aol.com
Term Expires 2023

Andy Wilhoit
2249 Fieldstone Drive
Mendota Heights MN 55120
651-402-5003
E-mail: Andy@Wilhoit.org
Term Expires 2024

Dave Mariani, Secretary
1875 Pine Island Park Street
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Home: 651-492-3313
Email: dmmaria@msn.com
(Appointed by Polk County)

Jack Weix
1838 Wellesley Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105
weixjack@gmail.com
612-325-8530
Term Expires 2023

Gary Schneider, Treasurer
601 Idlewild St #101
Balsam Lake WI 54810
612-210-3948
Email: Cheeser13@live.com
(Appointed by the Village of Balsam Lake)

www.blprd.com



East Balsam Alum Application

by William F. James

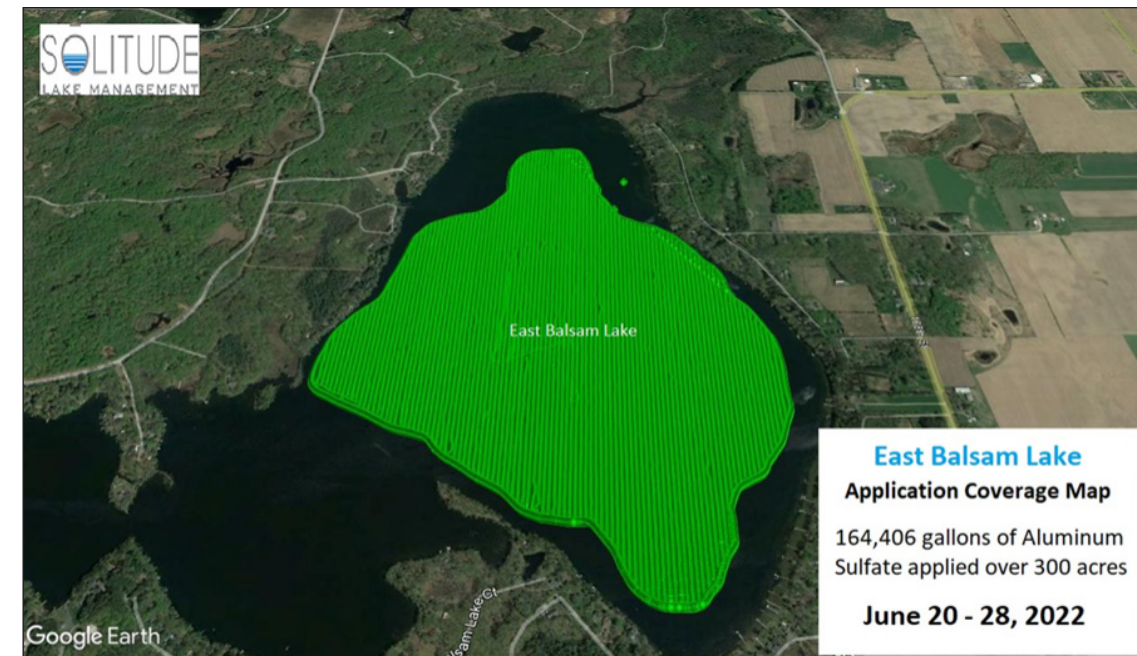
The second of four aluminum sulfate (alum) applications to East Balsam Lake occurred in late June 2022. Alum is being applied to the lake between 2020 and 2026 to control phosphorus recycling from the sediment, a process also called internal loading.

Previous research on the lake found that internal phosphorus loading from sediments has been a primary cause of nuisance blue-green algal blooms during the summer. Previously, phosphorus released from the sediment has mixed into the water to be taken up by blue-green algae for growth. Proliferous algal blooms often occurred in August through September because of internal phosphorus loading. The purpose of alum is to chemically bind this sediment phosphorus and prevent it from becoming mixed into the water and available to algae.

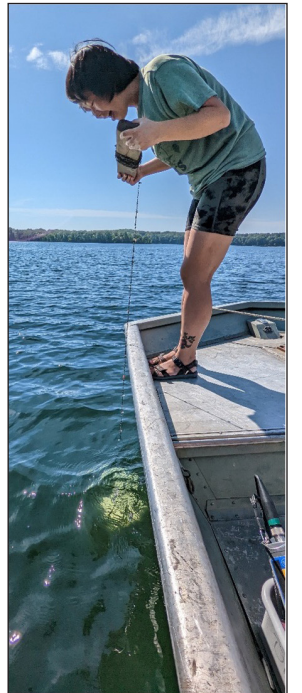
As of the second alum application in 2022, the lake exhibited outstanding water quality and exceeded standards throughout the summer! Phosphorus recycling from the sediment was essentially negated in 2022 by this alum treatment. Summer total phosphorus in the lake declined tremendously by 81 percent over pretreatment concentrations. Summer chlorophyll, an algal pigment that reflects biomass, declined by 90 percent in conjunction with the second alum treatment and exceeded State of Wisconsin WQ standards by 70 percent. Low algal growth in 2022 led to summer water clarity in the lake that was greater than 9 feet. Before the alum applications, summer water clarity was often less than 4 feet, so clarity has more than doubled as of 2022.

The Center for Limnological Research and Rehabilitation at the University of Wisconsin-Stout is continuing to monitor WQ conditions on East Balsam Lake in 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of the ongoing alum treatments. The third alum treatment is scheduled for 2024. ●

William F. James is Senior Researcher at the Center for Limnological Research and Rehabilitation, University of Wisconsin-Stout.



The alum application area in East Balsam Lake in 2022 (green). Alum was applied by Solitude Lake Management.



Mai Lia Vang of CLRR (UW-Stout) measuring water clarity in East Balsam Lake in 2022. The white object in the water is a secchi disk. It is lowered until it visibly disappears. The depth of its disappearance is a measure of water clarity. Water clarity increased in 2022 because algal growth was controlled by the alum treatments.

Contact us

Please contact the commissioners with any questions, comments or concerns you have. Commissioners meet on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Polk County Business Center, lower level conference room. You are welcome to attend the meetings.

2023 Meeting Dates

June 17	October 14
July 15 Annual Meeting	November 18
September 16	December 16

Enhanced Wake/Large Wave Initiative

by Gary Schneider

After listening to public comments regarding the Enhanced Wake/Large Wave issue, the BLPRD formed a subcommittee to address the issues. A survey was developed, distributed, and reviewed, and an action plan was created.

The action plan will be implemented for the 2023 boating season. The issue will be reviewed again at the end of the boating season, to determine if further restrictions will need to be added for the 2024 boating season.

Actions To Date

1. Boating Regulations/Restrictions/Suggestions

- Reviewed DNR regulations, and published studies from University of Minnesota, the State of Michigan, along with Industry Studies. Also reviewed ordinances from Lakes in the Midwest; Sand Lake, Hayward, Cedar Lake, Lake Minnetonka, and the Milltown Ordinance.
- Survey results have been reviewed, compiled, and published on the BLPRD website.
- Evaluated the options specific to Balsam Lake.

2. Education

- The BLPRD has partnered with the Balsam Lake Surf Club to develop, publish, and distribute a “Guide to Courteous Boating” brochure. The brochures have been distributed by our CBCW boat inspectors at boat landings, provided to Surf Club members, and Sunnyside Marina.
- Lake Maps have been developed to show distance from shore regulations and suggested distances. (Know Your Wake).

3. Communication

- Article published in Spring 2023 edition of the Docksider.
- BLHOA E Blasts will be sent throughout the boating season.
- Balsam Lake Surf Club developed the Courteous Boating brochure. Communicated safety and erosion concerns, increased enforcement, and other action plan items.
- Brochures/handouts have been distributed by boat inspectors, Surf club Members, and Sunnyside Marina staff.
- Signage at the boat landings has been reviewed and updated, new signs have been purchased and will be installed soon.
- Water Patrol will be implementing Courtesy Stops during the upcoming boating season.
- Enhanced Wake has been added to the agenda for the Annual BLPRD meeting. This will be an opportunity to discuss what has been done so far this year, to review Water Patrol stats, and ask for input from our members. Also, communicate that if there are ongoing issues, we may have to take the next step, and add restrictions.

4. Enforcement

- The Water Patrol will put an added emphasis on large wakes for the coming boating season. Expectations for enforcement will be communicated to our Water Patrol Officers at the May BLPRD Board Meeting.
- The second Officer has been hired and will be available for the start of the 2023 boating season.
- The BLPRD Water Patrol will increase hours for 2023.
- Our agenda had been communicated to members of the DNR and the Sheriff’s Office.
- See Something-Say Something -If you see a violation and would like to report it, you can text our Water Patrol at 715-554-7848, please leave your name, phone number, the date and time, a description of the violation, the location where the violation occurred, a description of the driver, along with the identification number of the boat, and any other pertinent information, including a video if possible. The Water Patrol will follow up on the violation. Also, a QR code has been developed and will be displayed brochures, and on the new signage at the boat landings. The code can be scanned and then routed to a form on the BLPRD website, and to our Water Patrol for follow-up.



Common Courtesy Goes A Long Way —

Wakeboat Etiquette Tips

- Stay at least 150 feet away from structures or shore; ride the core, avoid the shore.
- Minimize repetitive passes.
- Drive a predicted path.
- Avoid close passes to other boats; don’t follow another boat too closely.
- Don’t impede traffic. Wakesurfers usually travel at 10 to 12 mph.
- Avoid wakesurfing in busy areas.
- Look before you turn.
- Refrain from tricks when near other boats.
- Keep in mind that local boating laws and navigation rules still apply. Follow them and everyone will enjoy their time on the water we share.
- Keep music at a responsible level; sound travels much farther than you think on the water, and loud music can impede other boaters’ peace and quiet.

By following this plan to educate, communicate and enforce, we hope to avoid adding ordinances that would put additional restrictions for boating on Balsam Lake. Our hope is that no matter what type of watercraft is used; kayak, canoe, fishing boat, pontoon, jet ski, ski boat, or wake boat, it is used in a respectful manner, and that it does not infringe on the rights of others to enjoy the lake, or cause damage to the shoreline.

Through handouts, eblasts, the Docksider, the Water Patrol, and the Surf Club, we hope to reach all boaters with this message, but please help us to spread the word. If you are a boat owner, please communicate this to anyone who may operate your boat, (children, grandchildren, guests, etc.)

Here’s to a safe and enjoyable boating season for all! ●



CLP Harvesting Update 2023

by Jack Weix

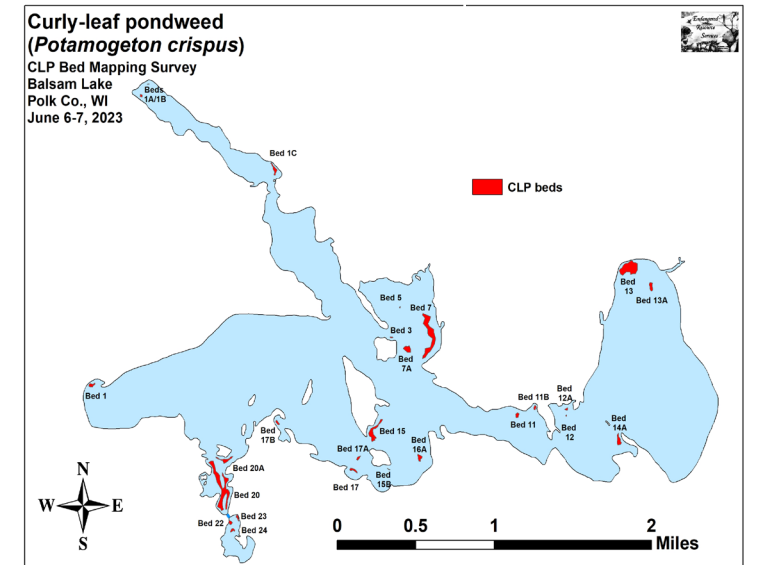
The 2022-2023 winter went well into April this year with ice out happening approximately April 21st. The upshot is, a long winter with deep snow followed by an unusually late spring and ice off, then a very rapid warm up appears to be producing poor conditions for CLP.

Based on the 2023 survey performed by Matt Berg, our lake biologist, East Balsam had the lowest CLP levels we’ve ever recorded. CLP appears to be done growing before it started. Most plants are less than 1.5 ft. tall, and many are black in color. Native plants are just starting to grow. Water temps were 65 degrees when surveyed in mid-May, which is obviously a huge warm up from just two weeks prior.

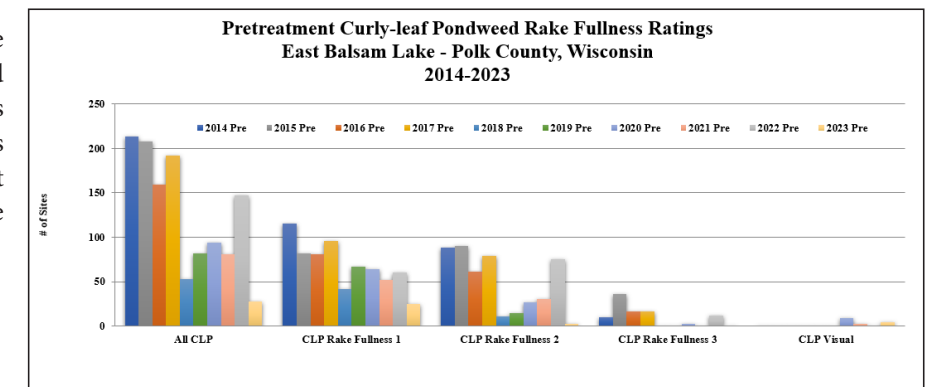
Based on this survey and our aquatic plant management plan (APM), it has been determined that we will not chemically treat for CLP in 2023. It has been the position as a District to avoid using herbicide, when possible, for the benefit of the native plants and water quality of the entire lake.

As always, we intend to mechanically harvest CLP throughout the lake starting in mid-June, along with improving navigation channels throughout the lake.

Don Coddington continues to lead the harvesting operations along with his experienced crew. The crew harvested approximately 80 acres of CLP during the 2022 season. We are always looking for interested volunteers to support this team. Please direct interested parties to the website at www.BLPRD.com. ●



Above: Curly-leaf pondweed beds; below: rake fullness ratings in East Balsam.



Boater safety course

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin and carry a boater education card. The Boating Safety course is offered online. Go to boat-ed.com/wisconsin to access the course materials and take the test.

REPORT
Aquatic
Invasive
Species
(AIS)

PHOTOGRAPH:
- AIS
- QR Code



PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INVASIVE SPECIES IT'S THE LAW

PENALTIES MAY EXCEED \$2000

- ✓ **CLEAN** boats, trailers, and equipment of plants, animals, & mud
- ✓ **DRAIN** boats, motor, bilge, livewell, and equipment containing water before leaving lake access
- ✓ **DRY** everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse
- ✓ **DISPOSE** never move plants, live fish, unwanted bait away from a waterbody. Use available trash bin. Keep your catch on ice to transport safely.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS
Be a Good Stewart. Protect Your Lake.



WI Department of Natural Resources
WI.DNR.COM Search Boat transportation and bait.



You Can Help Keep Balsam Lake Clean

Use Watercraft Cleaning Stations When Arriving and Leaving Balsam Lake

Watch



EURASIAN MILFOIL
Myriophyllum Spicatum

Photo credit: © Paul Skawinski 2012

IMPACTS Has a devastating impacts on native ecosystems, displacing native aquatic plants and impacting fish and wildlife populations. It can form large, thick mats which interfere with recreation and navigation.
IDENTIFICATION It's a submerged aquatic invasive plant with delicate, feather-like leaves arranged in a whorl around the stem of the plant. It can be distinguished from native milfoils by the 12-21 pairs of leaflets making up each leaf.
HOW IT IS SPREAD It spreads when small fragments of the plant break off, form new plants, and float on water currents or are transported by boater traffic.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



RAINBOW SMELT
Osmerus Mordax

Photo credit: ©Wayne Nelson-Stastny, SD Game, Fish, and Parks

IMPACTS Rainbow smelt prey upon many native game fish, including northern-pike and walleye. They contributed to the extinction of the blue pike.
IDENTIFICATION The adult size of up to 12 inches. Its colorful in water but fades quickly out of water. Has an adipose fin. Has large teeth on jaws and tongue, and a large mouth.
HOW IT IS SPREAD This fish may be spreading to lakes as a result of illegal stocking or release with live bait.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



STARRY STONEWORT
Nitellopsis Obtusa

Photo credit: NY State Dept of Conservation

IMPACTS Dense mats at the water's surface inhibit water recreation. Overtakes habitat and outcompetes native aquatic plants. Provides unsuitable shelter, food, and nesting habitat for native animals.
IDENTIFICATION Looks similar to many native, beneficial grass-like algae but can be distinguished by its white, star-shaped bulbils.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Fragments tangled in trailers, motors, anchors, inside watercraft, hidden in mud and debris stuck to trailer bunks, ropes, footwear, fishing and hunting gear can form new populations.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



RUSTY CRAYFISH
Orconectes Rusticus

Photo credit: George Merovich

IMPACTS An opportunistic feeder, that eats almost any plant and small fish. A very aggressive species that often displace native crayfish. It reduces the aquatic plant abundance and diversity by destroying the plants as it feeds.
IDENTIFICATION It has dark rusty-colored spots on each side of their back. It has large, smooth claws that vary in color from grayish-green to reddish brown with black bands at the claw tip.
HOW IT IS SPREAD The best way to control rusty crayfish is to slow the spread of them to other lakes through spread from livewell, ballast, and bilge water. Never use as bait. Never transport from lake to lake.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



RED SWAMP CRAYFISH
Procambarus Clarkii

Photo credit: WI DNR

IMPACTS It can be a host for parasites and diseases. It aggressively competes with native crayfish and other species for food and habitat.
IDENTIFICATION Including claws, the red swamp crayfish can grow up to 5 inches long. It has a dark red body and claws, with spiky, bright red bumps. There is also a black wedge-shaped stripe on its underside.
HOW IT IS SPREAD The red swamp crayfish was probably accidentally released from aquaculture operations, bait buckets or the live-food trade. It can walk several miles overland to a new pond.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



ROUND GOBY
Neogobius Melanostomus

Photo credit: Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

IMPACTS Very aggressive fish that displace native fish and take over habitat. It reproduces very quickly and populations increase rapidly. It steals bait off of fishhooks, eat fish eggs, and compete with other small fish for food.
IDENTIFICATION It has a single suction cup-like mouth. Young are solid slate-gray. Adult are 3-6 inches in length, although may get up to 10 inches long.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Spreads from boat livewell, ballast, and bilge water. Never use as bait. There is little that can eliminate them once established.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin

These invasives are not in Balsam Lake. Avoid bringing them in with you.

Warning



CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL
Bellamya Chinensis

IMPACTS The Chinese mystery snail alters the ecosystem composition, structure, and function by competing with native snails for food and space.
IDENTIFICATION Small animals with a coiled spiral shell. They grow up to 3 inches tall and are olive to black in color. The shell opening is on the right when the shell is pointed up. They have an operculum ("trapdoor") covering the opening, which is missing when the snail is dead and the shell is empty.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Spreads via aquarium release and other accidental and intentional introductions.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED
Potamogeton Crispus

IMPACTS It outcompetes native aquatic plants because it exhibits rapid growth in the early spring, sometimes growing beneath ice cover. It forms large, dense mats on the surface inhibiting the light necessary for native plant growth and interfering with navigation and recreation.
IDENTIFICATION Its a submerged aquatic invasive plant. The leaves are easily distinguished by their rounded tip, prominent mid-vein, and finely toothed edges. The leaves appear wavy. It typically grows in less than 9 feet of water.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Spreads from the movement of watercraft and equipment.
Source: Sea Grant, University of Wisconsin



YELLOW FLAG IRIS
Iris pseudacorus

IMPACTS Once established, it forms dense clumps or floating mats that can alter wildlife habitat, species diversity, and may alter hydrology by trapping sediment.
IDENTIFICATION Broad, sword-shaped leaves grow upright, tall and stiff. They are green with a blue-grey tint and are very difficult to distinguish from other ornamental or native iris species. Yellow flowers are produced on a stem that can grow 3-4 feet tall among leaves that are usually as tall or taller.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Yellow flag iris can produce many seeds that can float from the parent plant, or plants can spread vegetatively via rhizome fragments.
Source: Wisconsin DNR



NARROW LEAF CATTAIL
Typha Angustifolia

IMPACTS Invades marshy areas by forming large monocultures that exclude other plant species.
IDENTIFICATION Dark green, flat leaf-blades are 0.15-0.5" wide, and up to three feet tall. It has numerous tiny flowers densely packed into a cylindrical spike at end of the stem with an upper section of yellow, male flowers and lower section of brown, female flowers.
HOW IT IS SPREAD Seeds are tiny (about one mm), dispersed by the wind with the aid of numerous hairs. Each cattail spike produces thousands of seeds that remain viable for up to 100 years. Plants also reproduce vegetatively by underground.
Source: Wisconsin DNR



ZEBRA MUSSEL
Dreissena Polymorpha

IMPACTS It competes with zooplankton, native mussels, and fishes. It filter-feeds to clear water that can results in blooms of filamentous algae. Algae washes up on shore and is suitable for the bacteria that kills birds by avian botulism. Shells can cut feet and hands.
IDENTIFICATION It's up to 1.25" long with flat sided, D-shaped shells. It's light brown to white, with brown-black stripes. Tiny threads anchor them to hard surfaces (docks & boats).
HOW IT IS SPREAD 2-year-old females begin producing about a million eggs per year that hatch and are transported in water in livewells, bilge, ballast, boat motors, and are carried to other lakes.
Source: University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point



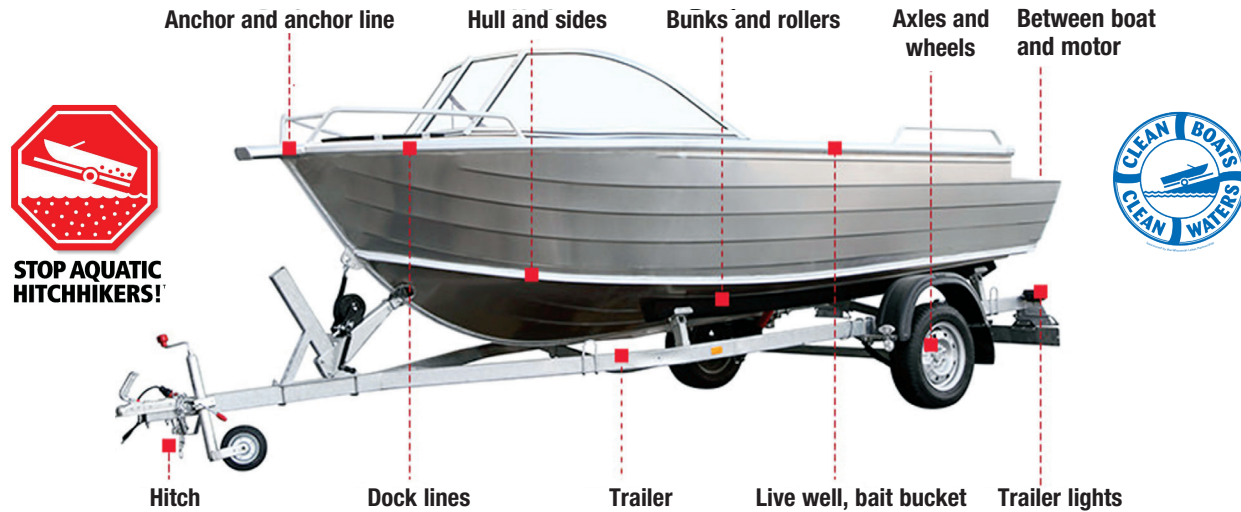
Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum Salicaria

IMPACTS It displaces native plants to become the dominant species. Nesting habitat quality decreases reducing the waterfowl and shorebird communities.
IDENTIFICATION It's a perennial wetland plant, growing to about 8 feet tall. Woody stems are 4-6 sided. Leaves are opposite with smooth margins. Pink to purple flower have six petals and form spikes. Each fruit capsules contain thousands of seeds.
HOW IT IS SPREAD It was intentionally imported for ornamental use, medicinal use, or use by beekeepers. Seeds are dispersed by the wind.
Source: University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

These invasives are in Balsam Lake. Avoid taking with you when leaving.

It's up to you to stop aquatic hitchhikers...

Clean your boat and equipment to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!



In Wisconsin it's the law*
Failure to follow these steps can lead to fines up to \$2000.

Aquatic invasive plants and animals such as Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, rusty crayfish, and zebra mussels are easily transported by boats and equipment as boaters travel from one lake to another. Fish diseases are easily spread when fish are transported from one water body to another.

It is important to follow these preventative steps for all water activities:

- Boating
- Using personal watercraft
- Shore and fly-fishing
- Sailing
- Scuba diving
- Waterfowl hunting

Be diligent! Small organisms, plant fragments, roots or seeds transported by your boat and equipment can grow and infest another lake.

Before launching and before leaving a body of water:

Follow Wisconsin Law which requires:

- **Inspect** boats, vehicles, trailers, and equipment.
- **Remove** all attached aquatic plants and animals.
- **Drain** all water from boats, vehicles and equipment.
- **Never move** plants or live fish away from a water body.

In addition, Polk County Ordinance requires decontamination if materials are present at the landing to:

- **Wash or spray** with hot water 140°F.
- **Clean with steam** at 212°F.
- **Wash or spray** with bleach 2 tbsp. per gallon of water.
- **Vacuum and blow dry** live wells, equipment and containers.

Follow additional best practices including:

- **Dry for 5 days.**
- **Freeze** at 26°F or below.

* **State of Wisconsin: Section 30.715 WI Act 16** prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or animals attached.

* **Polk County, Wisconsin Code of Ordinances Chapter 24, Article III:** prohibits launching or operating on a public roadway any boat, boat trailer, or hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating equipment, including canoes, lines, anchors, nets, decoys, and waders if aquatic plants or invasive animals are attached. If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate equipment per posted directions using the station provided and/or pursuant to the direction of decontamination personnel present.

IMPORTANT: Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash, not in the water or on land. Buy minnows from a Wisconsin licensed bait dealer.

Polk County Sheriff
715-485-8300
(non-emergency)
EMERGENCY DIAL 911

Source: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. For more information check these sources: DNR.WI.GOV/INVASIVES/BOAT.HTML, UWSP.EDU/CNR/UWEXLAKES, SEAGRANT.WISC.EDU, STOPAQUATICHITCHHIKERS.ORG

Produced by Polk County Association of Lakes and Rivers May, 2022 pcalr.org

BLPRD 2023 ANNUAL MEETING



Public Notification

BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

47th ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Unity School Performing Arts Center, 1908 150th St., Balsam Lake, Wisconsin on July 15, 2023 beginning at 8:30 A.M. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

- The Electors will vote by secret ballot to fill two commissioner positions.
- A vote to borrow \$324,000 in funds to facilitate the third East Balsam alum application in 2024.
- The annual budget will be discussed and adopted by a vote of the Electors in attendance.

WIS. STATS. CHAPTER 33, PUBLIC INLAND WATERS. 33.-1 (2).

(ar) For the purpose of voting at meetings of the district, a person who is a U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older and who meets any of the following requirements:

1. The person's name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll under s. 70.65 (2) (a) 1. that was delivered under s. 74.03 on or before the 3rd Monday in December of the previous year.
2. The person owns title to real property but the person's name does not appear as an owner of real property on the tax roll specified in subd. 1.
3. The person is the official representative, officer or employee who is authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or organization that owns real property in the district.

Agenda

Annual Meeting Agenda July 15, 2023 8:30 AM Unity PAC

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
2. **COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF July 16, 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**
5. **REPORTS**
 - Opening Comments – Tom Kelly
 - East Balsam 2022/2024 Alum Treatment/2024 Alum Borrowing Resolution – Tom Kelly
 - Water Safety Patrol – Gary Schneider
 - Large Wave Watercraft – Gary Schneider
 - Aquatic Plan Management/Aquatic Invasive Species – Dale Ulbrich
 - Watercraft Cleaning Stations – Dale Ulbrich
 - Clean Boats Clean Waters – Bill Mork
 - Herbicide / Harvesting Curly-leaf Pondweed and Navigation – Jack Weix
6. **TREASURER REPORT**
 - 2022 Annual Report and 2023 YTD / 2024 Budget – Gary Schneider
7. **Registered commissioner candidates eligible for 2021 election - vote for two**
 - Bill Mork
 - Jack Weix
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
9. **ELECTION RESULTS**
10. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - Lake Manager Position – Tom Kelly
11. **ADJOURN**

Voter registration

At any annual meeting or special meeting of the lake district where voting will take place, registration is required. The Lake District obtains its voter registration list from the Polk County Treasurer, who gets this from the Real Estate Tax Rolls. Often only one name listed as the owner of the real estate. In this case the "spouse" of the listed property owner may vote. One official representative of a trust or corporation in the District may vote. A person or persons who own more than one piece of property can only vote once. There are no absentee ballots or proxies.

Election rules are specified by Wis. Stat. §33.01 (9) (ar), §33.30 (3) and §33.30 (5).

Meeting notices

Notices of the meeting and agenda are posted several days before the meeting at the following locations:

Village of Balsam Lake
404 Main St
Balsam Lake, WI

Jonzy Market
1043 185th Ave
Balsam Lake, WI

Balsam Lake Post Office
308 Pearl St
Balsam Lake, WI

BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT: BUDGET OVERVIEW 2021-2023

	Actual Dec 2022	2023 Amended Budget	Actual Mar YTD 2023	Proposed 2024 Budget
REVENUE				
BL PROTECTION FUND INCOME				
WATER PATROL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT	8,121	12,650	8,457	16,700
TAX APPROPRIATION	209,650	231,993	192,006	200,794
INTEREST CHECKING/CD/SAV	3,417	1,800	1,478	2,000
GRANTS AIS 2019-2022	-	-	36,967	10,000
STATE GRANTS - Cleaning Stations	-	54,500	-	-
GRANT CBCW	16,000	16,000	-	16,000
EBWQ/ALUM 2020 & 2022	200,000	-	-	200,000
GRANT HEALTHY LAKES 101	1,820	1,000	-	-
GRANTS TOTAL	217,820	71,500	54,033	226,000
LOTTERY CREDIT	-	1,500	-	1,500
TOTAL REVENUE	439,008	319,443	256,498	446,334
LOAN PROCEEDS	385,532	-	-	324,000
TRANSFER FROM 2022	-	42,367	-	80,000
Total Funding Sources	824,540	361,810	256,498	850,994
COST OF OPERATIONS / APPROPRIATIONS				
BOARD - ADMINISTRATION	-	-	-	-
Annual meeting expense	1,275	1,000	-	1,000
Administrative support	1,189	1,300	323	1,300
Operations equipment	-	100	-	100
Office supplies	-	100	-	100
Safety deposit box	-	-	-	50
Software	-	1,000	220	400
TOTAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION	2,464	3,500	543	2,950
COMMISSIONER EXPENSES	-	-	-	-
Meetings	3,725	5,000	-	5,000
Mileage	839	1,000	-	1,000
Reimbursed expenses	-	100	-	100
Annual meeting 'Thank You'	-	500	-	700
Convention expenses	-	300	-	300
Books, subscriptions, reference manuals	750	750	850	750
Commissioner project activity expense	-	100	-	100
TOTAL COMMISSIONER EXPENSES	5,314	7,750	850	7,950
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	985	-	-	750
EXPENSES TO BE REIMBURSED	3,964	12,650	1,705	5,010
POSTAGE	566	1,300	-	1,400
PRINTING	9,507	8,750	-	9,700
RENT	1,800	1,800	450	1,800
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	16,822	24,500	2,155	18,660
AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT	2,035	-	-	-
Permits	308	960	130	960
Herbicide Contractor	24,187	37,400	-	37,400
LAKE BIOLOGIST	8,405	11,500	-	11,500
APM Plan & PI Survey	-	-	-	-
Water Quality Study	-	-	-	-
HARVESTING OPERATIONS	6,773	7,400	-	7,474
Total AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT	41,708	57,260	130	57,334
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS	68,190	64,000	-	68,000
CBCW 283-16 EXPENSE	-	100	-	100
WATER RUNOFF PROGRAM	-	1,000	-	1,000
WATER QUALITY PROJECTS	425	1,000	-	1,000
ALUM CONSULTING/MONITORING	15,575	15,900	-	15,400
HEALTHY LAKES 101	25	-	-	-
EBWQ 2022 and 2024 Alum Treatment	385,532	-	-	324,000
Boat Cleaning Stations	-	134,500	-	6,750
TOTAL WATER QUALITY	469,747	216,500	-	416,250
Alum Loan Payment 2022 Treatment	200,000	92,500	41,693	92,500
Alum 2024 Loan Payment	-	-	-	200,000
Alum Loan Payment Interest	-	6,000	-	6,000
INTEREST ON LOAN	3,059	-	3,018	-
TOTAL LOAN PAYMENTS	203,059	98,500	49,777	298,500

	Actual Dec 2022	2023 Amended Budget	Actual Mar YTD 2023	Proposed 2024 Budget
LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES				
- Portable Toilets	1,665	3,100	1,520	3,500
- Signage	-	500	-	1,000
- CONSERVANCY	-	-	-	-
State Grant Expense	487	-	-	-
AIS Grant Writing	1,600	2,500	-	1,000
VOBL DAM MAINTENANCE	2,800	2,800	3,000	2,800
LONG RANGE APM PLAN	-	-	-	-
LONG RANGE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN	-	-	-	-
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & STORAGE	325	4,000	-	3,000
WATER SAFETY PATROL	8,800	-	441	11,690
TOTAL LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	16,439	12,900	4,961	22,990
CONTRACT SERVICES				
ACCOUNTING	12,825	13,200	4,749	14,000
INSURANCE/BOND	3,774	5,500	979	5,500
LEGAL	7,387	1,000	11,444	5,000
OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES QUICK BOOKS	808	-	-	-
WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	1,037	1,200	1,500	1,200
TOTAL OTHER CONTACT SERVICES	25,831	20,900	18,672	25,700
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	781,384	441,810	72,022	850,334
Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	43,156	(80,000)	184,476	
Transferred from 2021 Operating Account	30,311	0	-	-
Gross Surplus / Deficit		(80,000)		
BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION FUND REVENUE				
Balance Forward	294,236	336,603	-	-
Transferred from 2023 Operating Account	42,367	-	-	-
TOTAL	336,603			
LISTED CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE PROJ Year Approved				
RICE CREEK SEDIMENTATION MAINTENANCE	2006	50,575	50,575	50,575
AIS RAPID RESPONSE PLAN	2022	20,000	30,000	30,000
*DREDGING MACHINE	2015	95,880	95,880	95,880
Cleaning Stations	2022	-	-	134,000
TOTAL		166,455	176,455	310,455
	2022	2023	2024	
HNB LOAN EBWQ ALUM 2022	82,000	185,532	-	-
HNB LOAN EBWQ ALUM 2024	-	-	124,000	-
BCPL LOAN #02016142.03	21,386	-	-	-
TOTAL	103,386	185,532	124,000	

BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 16, 2022, 8:30 AM UNITY PAC

- CALL TO ORDER**
 - Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.
- COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**
 - Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Dale Ulbrich, Andy Wilhoit, Bill Mork, Dave Mariani, Jack Weix.
 - Patty Kabus (recorder).
- APPROVE AGENDA**
 - David Kerr motioned to approve the agenda, Ray Sloss seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING**
 - David Kerr motioned to approve the July 17, 2021 meeting minutes, Denny Moll seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- REPORTS**
 - Opening Comments – Tom Kelly**
 - Thanks to the Commissioners, all the volunteers, Dave and Amanda from Unity for putting the venue together for us.
 - Thanks to Dave Mariani and Patty Kabus for getting all the preparation

work done.

- Thanks to the board members for all their work for the district.
- Recognition of Rod Preble for his many efforts on behalf of the District as well as the Village of Balsam Lake – the harvester has been named the USS Preble in recognition of his efforts.
 - East Balsam 2022 Alum Treatment – Andy Wilhoit**
 - To date, we are 60 percent complete with the recommended dosages. Due to trucker shortages, it took a couple extra days to apply this year's dosage.
 - All acres deeper than 10 feet (approximately 300 acres).
 - Thanks to East Balsam neighbors for allowing the East Balsam landing to be used as a staging station for the treatments.
 - The first application occurred in 2020 with the second application this year.
 - 74 percent phosphorous reduction. In all areas, the alum treatments are proving to be very effective.
 - A resident mentioned that the county sheriffs, DNR and water patrol were all seen on the lake at the same time. Commissioner Wilhoit noted that currently there is no coordination between the County, DNR and Water Patrol to prevent this.
 - No Wake Zone Marina – Gary Schneider**
 - In May, there was a public meeting about adding a no wake zone by Sunnyside.

- ii) The primary goal is to reduce fuel spillage, as well as erosion control.
- iii) Commissioner Schneider asked those in the room to please remind your kids and grandkids to follow the no wake zone properly.
- iv) The water ski show and similar events can get a special use permit to allow them to go ahead with those events.
- v) There are now 4 no wake zones on the lake.
- vi) Someone mentioned that the location of the buoys seems to be kind of random.
- vii) This year, buoys were not put in the right place. Not sure if they are floating or moving for some other reason.
- viii) Buoys are not in place yet for the new no wake zone because they are on backorder.
- ix) It was mentioned that lack of enforcement causes most of the issues on the lake.
- x) Our goal is to be a presence and education and verbal warnings are given a lot of the time, with citations when necessary.
- xi) A question was asked as to how we can enforce before the markers are out. Commissioner Schneider said we can't enforce until the buoys are out.

• **Aquatic Plant Management/Aquatic Invasive Species – Dale Ulrich**

- i) The goal of the invasive species management is to manage invasive species and preserve the natural plant life.
- ii) Zebra Mussel Monitor plates were installed last year. Someone from the DNR checks each plate monthly.
- iii) Past drags have not shown signs of Zebra Mussels.
- iv) A report of an adult Zebra Mussel was reported in Little Balsam in June of this year.
- v) The following week, a team from the DNR did a drag. No sign of Zebra Mussels were found.
- vi) One additional drag was done and we are still waiting for results. We also took water samples and are waiting for results from that DNA testing.
- vii) Commissioner Ulrich mentioned that our biggest goal is prevention. It took about 21 months for Zebra Mussels to take over at Deer Lake, so anything we can do to be proactive will help prevent or delay invasion
- viii) Ray Sloss mentioned that everyone can inspect their docks. Once you get Zebra Mussels, it is very difficult to do anything about it.

• **Herbicide / Harvesting Curley Pond Weeds and Navigation – Tom Kelly**

- i) We did treat a few weed beds for CLP this year, about 30 acres in the north central and south central bed of East Balsam.
- ii) Objective criteria, established by the DNR, tells us when to treat with herbicide. This year, these two beds met the criteria this year, so we did treat them. This year's treatment came in at just over \$24000. We budget \$37000 each year. The bed sizes have been lowered due to annual harvesting and chemical treatment when needed.
- iii) We have treated 2 of the last 5 years.
- iv) Last year, we ran into some mechanical difficulties with the harvester. This year, the harvester has been out, but the amount of CLP is significantly less this year so it hasn't been needed a whole lot yet. We had some harvesting done in Stumps Bay, Raskin Bay, and Forest Circle.
- v) We have not done any navigation harvesting yet this year.
- vi) It has been a slow year for CLP due to the late spring, cool weather, and previous efforts. We will see more of the harvester as the season goes on.

• **Clean Boats Clean Waters – Bill Mork**

- i) We have the same lead, Terry Morton back again this year.
- ii) Town Beach – 2066 people contacted.
- iii) 46 store – 1961 people contacted.
- iv) Little Balsam – 521 people contacted.
- v) East Balsam - 377 people contacted.
- vi) Most of the people using the launch are not from around the lake.
- vii) There are sizeable holes at 46 and Town Bay, due to power loading.
- viii) Today's fishing tournament has 57 boats. These tend to be the boats that are going to many lakes.

- ix) A question was asked as to how they inspect. Commissioner Mork said the CBCW program monitors do a visual inspection of the boats, looking for milfoil and zebra mussels on the exterior of each boat.
- x) Some lakes have cleaning stations so the boats can be cleaned.
- xi) Dave Herr asked if there is a possibility to require permits with inspection the day before the tournament to make sure they are clean. Commissioner Mork mentioned that this would need to be done in coordination with the Homeowner's Association and the Village, as they are in charge of the launches.
- xii) We need to step up the steps we take to prevent zebra mussels and other invasive species from entering the lake.
- xiii) Commissioner Kelly mentioned that the CBCW program does a super job. Our consultant mentioned that Balsam Lake is considered the gold standard for the program, and thanked Commissioner Mork for his leadership of the program.

• **Healthy Lakes – Tom Kelly**

- i) There is still money available for healthy lakes plantings.
- ii) These plantings are designed to mitigate and to divert runoff.
- iii) The Healthy Lakes program is made up of Native Plantings, rain gardens and runoff diversion as the main types of runoff mitigation.
- iv) This will be the last year of the current program. We are not sure what we will do moving forward.
- v) To apply for a grant, please call Commissioner Kelly. He will have the environmental consultant, Cheryl Clemmens, come out and do a site inspection. She will develop a plan and recommend the type of planting or mitigation. There are 4 or 5 local landscaping companies who can do the work, or you can do it yourself.

• **Watercraft Cleaning Stations / Dale Ulbrich**

- i) We are looking at what we can do to help boats be cleaned before they are put in or come out of the lake.
- ii) Infested lakes decrease property values by 13 percent.
- iii) We are looking at installing cleaning stations at each launch, to allow boaters to clean their boats when they go in and when they come out of the lake.
- iv) A new Polk County Ordinance that if cleaning stations are installed, they are required to be used.
- v) The cleaning station would allow boaters to clean and dry their boats. Drying boats kills 'villagers' (young zebra mussels).
- vi) Federal boat launches are now using cleaning stations.
- vii) We are proposing adding cleaning stations to all launches (6 in total).
- viii) The cost of this program is \$130,000.
- ix) A DNR grant would pay 40-60% of the cost.
- x) There is a \$3500 annual maintenance fee for the stations. This includes monitoring software and physical maintenance, winterizing, spring setup, battery maintenance, weed disposal, bait, etc.
- xi) The stations work using solar power.
- xii) The County has no oversight of our launches, other than the ordinance.
- xiii) It takes 5-10 minutes per boat to use the cleaning station.
- xiv) This program is being proposed to be budgeted for 2023.
- xv) Commissioner Kelly noted that under new business, we will be taking a vote for the program. If it is passed, it will be added as an amendment to the budget. We do have 100% of the funds in our conservancy funds. When grant money is received, it will replenish the conservancy funds.

6) TREASURER REPORT

• **2021 Annual Report and 2022 YTD / 2023 Budget – Gary Schneider**

- i) YTD, we are on budget.
- ii) The proposed 2023 budget was included in the Dockside.
- iii) Major expenses this year have been the herbicide treatment, the harvester payment, and the alum treatment.
- iv) The tax appropriation of \$231,000.00 for 2023. 2022 was \$209,000.00.

- v) Part of the increase for this year is labor costs (\$16,000.00).
- vi) The surplus from last year was put back into the operating budget.
- vii) Loans – we have \$92,500.00 budgeted for the first-year payment for the 2022 alum treatment.
- viii) We paid off the harvesting equipment this year.
- ix) For next year, we will have the remainder of the alum treatment plus interest as our only loan payment.
- x) Commissioner Schneider went through and pointed out specific items from the budget and explained what they are.
- xi) A question was asked how we are handling the excess income. Commissioner Kelly mentioned that we are putting excess back into the operating budget for the next year. We will be discussing with the board, how much to keep as a cushion. Ray Sloss mentioned that the purpose was to keep a cushion for projects but was not intended to be overfunded and suggested we use the overfunding to pay for the alum treatment project. Commissioner Kelly noted that the Alum treatment funding is already in place, per the approval given last year by the constituency.
- xii) The loan we got for the alum treatment was at 3.125%, for \$385,000 contingent on getting a \$200,000 DNR grant which we did get.
- xiii) Dave Kerr motioned to approve the budget as presented, Fran Launstein seconded, all approved, motion carried.

7) REGISTERED COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR 2022 ELECTION - VOTE FOR ONE

• **Tom Kelly**

- i) All votes were in favor of electing Tom Kelly as Commissioner, so he has been elected for another 3-year term.

8) OLD BUSINESS

• **Long Range Lake Management Plan / Member Survey - Dale Ulbrich**

- i) We are currently covered for up to 2 more years under our long-range plan.
- ii) Over the winter months, we did a survey to see what constituents have to say about the work being done on the lake.
- iii) Commissioner Ulbrich presented the survey results (also included in the Dockside).
- iv) Satisfaction on our efforts showed that water safety is ranked lower and needs attention.
- v) As far as water clarity, people were happy with the work being done but suggested we do more to prevent phosphorous from entering the lake.
- vi) Also suggested was to mitigate wetlands around the lake to keep them clean.
- vii) Education was also mentioned.
- viii) Keep up the good work on harvesting and boat inspections.
- ix) Request for cleaning stations.
- x) Find a way to reduce weeds caused by the harvester from floating to the shoreline.
- xi) Wildlife and fish – some people suggested no spraying. Also suggested is to stock the lake with walleye and other desirable fish.
- xii) Suggestion to find a way to improve spawning grounds. Commissioner Ulbrich noted that we are just starting to explore a system to 'bubble' the lake to break down weed decay formation, which adds to phosphorous problems.
- xiii) Shoreline erosion – it is up to homeowners to reduce grass clippings and weeds out of the lake on their shores, to also help control phosphorous.
- xiv) 2 new focus areas are water safety, and recreation and navigation. We have been looking at studies to find out how other lakes are managing wake boats, including possibly increasing the distance between boats and distance from the shore.
- xv) On the recreation and navigation, increasing the dam height was suggested. The village is responsible to maintain this level, this suggestion should be made to them.
- xvi) 45 percent were neutral or dissatisfied with the progress we are making. The board will be focusing on the survey results moving forward,

- to determine what else we can do, particularly with wake boats
- xvii) A question was asked as to what is being done about the geese. Commissioner Kelly explained that the village is responsible for the goose roundup. The geese may be migrating rather than native. The goose count determines what needs to be done each year. They did not do a goose roundup this year.
- xviii) A mention was made about a couple of issues in regards to wake boats – since the average depth of East Balsam is 10 feet, it doesn't make sense to allow wake boats in East Balsam or in Little Balsam either. Commissioner Kelly mentioned that the studies we are looking at in regards to wake boats is on our website. The wake boat issue is definitely on our radar, but the state is in charge of the rules for wake boats. We are looking to see what other lakes have done, including restricting hours and location for wake boats. This will help us determine what can be done in Balsam Lake. Commissioner Kelly noted that the wake boats and other agitation does not detract from the alum treatment, but can cause non-bonded phosphorous to be stirred up.
- xix) A question was asked about the 10-year plan, whether it is complete now. Commissioner Ulbrich noted that we are working to update the 10-year plan. It was asked to put a copy of the updated plan in the library as the current copy is old.

9) ELECTION RESULTS

- i) See item 7 above for election results.
- ii) Commissioner Kelly recognized the election judges for their work in handling the election.

10) NEW BUSINESS

• **Watercraft Cleaning Stations – Dale Ulrich**

- i) Commissioner Kelly noted that the board is in favor of adding cleaning stations, and proposed a vote for the addition of 7 cleaning stations, one at each launch site at an ultimate cost of \$50,000-\$80,000, subject to the approval of a plan. We would like to have these in place for next year's boating season.
- ii) Ray Sloss suggested doing this process in a stepped method, instead of all at once. Commissioner Ulbrich mentioned that the board discussed this, and because of some limiting factors, decided that doing it all at once is a better approach. One of those factors is the potential for people to go to the launches that don't have the cleaning stations, and those launches are not set up for additional boat pressure.
- iii) Ray Sloss noted that these stations are not budgeted. Commissioner Kelly re-iterated the note made earlier, that if this program is approved, it would be an amendment to the budget.
- iv) A district member asked if the people who live around the launches will have input into where the stations are placed. Commissioner Ulbrich noted we could show them where the launches will be located and will listen to input (this is someone who lives near one of the smaller launches).
- v) Commissioner Kelly asked for a motion to approve cleaning stations at a cost of \$131,000 plus \$3500 in annual maintenance costs and maximum cost to district of \$80,000.00 net of DNR grant. Dave Kerr motioned to approve the installation of cleaning stations at the above noted cost, Fran Launstein seconded. Commissioner Kelly asked for a voice vote. With one person opposed and the rest in favor, the motion passed.

11) ADJOURN•

Meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

Dock Side

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
P.O. Box 202
Balsam Lake, WI 54810



2023 ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE ENCLOSED



Clean Boats Clean Waters

The Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) program is off to another good start under the direction of Terry Morton. Terry has been with CBCW for 9 years. The program began with the fishing opener on May 9th and will run thru mid-October. There are eight landing monitors working to inspect boats etc. at the four landings. New this year are the cleaning stations* which have been made available from grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and financial contribution from the Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District. The hours for monitoring the various landings are as follows:

46 Store and Town Bay

Monday: 10 am - 6 pm
Tuesday: Off
Wednesday-Sunday: 6 am - 2 pm

Little Balsam and East Balsam

Tuesday-Friday: 6 am - 2 pm
Wednesday-Sunday: 6 am - 2 pm
Monday: Off

*Polk County, Wisconsin Code of Ordinances Chapter 24, Article III prohibits launching or operating on a public roadway any boat, boat trailer, or hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating equipment, including canoes, lines, anchors, nets, decoys, and waders if aquatic plants or invasive animals are attached. If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate equipment per posted directions using the station provided and/or pursuant to the direction of decontamination personnel present. ●



Clean, Drain, Dry... every water body, every time. Before launching and before leaving the water access:

CLEAN off visible aquatic plants, animals and mud from boat, trailer and all equipment.

DRAIN motor, bilge, live well and any other water-containing devices.

DRY everything for at least five days before reuse or disinfect.

NEVER MOVE fish or bait from one body of water to another.

stopaquaticinvasives.org